

## MINIMUM \$7 PAY IN STORES HERE IS HINT OF OWNERS

Increase From \$6 Planned, Big  
Employers Tell Factory  
Commission.

STRAUS ONE WITNESS.

J. B. Greenhut Another of  
Principal Men Who Dis-  
cuss Wage Conditions.

The bitter controversy as to whether  
\$6 a week constitutes a "living wage"  
for a girl bread-winner promises to  
be settled shortly so far as concerns  
the saleswomen of the New York de-  
partment stores by an increase in pay,  
according to prominent dry goods men,  
who testified to-day before the State  
Factory Investigating Commission.

Percy S. Straus, President of the  
New York Retail Dry Goods Association,  
and connected with the H. H. Macy  
Company, who was the star witness  
before the commission at the morning  
session in the Hall of Records,  
intimated that in a short time it  
is likely department store sales-  
women will receive a minimum wage  
of \$7 instead of the present \$6, if  
the plans of the association work out.

The dry-goods men were called to  
give their views on legislation in this  
State to establish a minimum wage  
scale. Both Straus and J. B. Green-  
hut, President of the company of that  
name, were non-committal so far as a  
minimum wage law for women and  
children was concerned, but appeared  
hopeful that better wages are in store  
for department store employees in  
this city.

"For the last three years," Mr.  
Straus testified in response to ques-  
tions put by Abram L. Elkus, counsel  
to the Commission, "there has been a  
tendency among the members of our  
association to grade up and increase  
the wages of women. The matter  
has been discussed at our meetings  
and while there is no written agree-  
ment, many of the stores have estab-  
lished a minimum rate of \$6 for all  
saleswomen who are not minors."

"Was the increase made volun-  
tarily?" asked Mr. Elkus.

"It was because we believed it  
would increase the efficiency of the  
working force. We are determined,  
if we can, to increase this scale of  
wages to \$7 for this class of help."

Asked if he considered \$6 a living  
wage for the average working girl,  
Mr. Straus said:

"We can't consider what you term  
a 'living wage.' There is efficiency in  
living as well as in business. What  
would be an adequate wage for one  
would be inadequate for another. It's  
a question of knowing how much  
one's needs are. It's purely a  
question of the individual."

Pinned down to the question of the  
proposed legislation, now drafted in  
tentative form, to establish a mini-  
mum wage in the State, Mr. Straus  
neatly sidestepped.

"I can't say I believe in a minimum  
wage. I certainly would like to see  
the draft of a law before it is in-  
troduced before I would care to give  
a decision."

State Senator Wagner, Chairman of  
the commission, Mr. E. Dreier, Con-  
gressman Hamilton, and other mem-  
bers of the board had a lively time  
with Charles Francis, an employer of  
printers and binders, with offices at  
No. 32 West Thirtieth street. He  
was emphatically against the pro-  
posed minimum wage legislation.

"So far as the State is concerned,  
minimum wage might strictly a closed  
one, and it is my opinion the workers  
should organize and take care of  
themselves."

"But don't you know that a hundred  
thousand girls in this city not mak-  
ing a living wage are powerless to or-  
ganize," asked Mr. Elkus.

"Many of these women and girls are  
members of families the heads of  
which provide enough for their up-  
keep," replied the witness.

## IF BACK HURTS USE SALTS FOR KIDNEYS

Eat less meat if Kidneys feel  
like lead or Bladder  
bothers.

Most folks forget that the kidneys,  
like the bowels, get sluggish and clogged  
and need a flushing occasionally, else we  
have backache and dull misery in the  
kidney region, and all sorts of rheu-  
matic twinges, torpid liver, and stomach,  
sleeplessness and all sorts of bladder dis-  
orders.

You simply must keep your kidneys  
active and clean, and the moment you  
feel an ache or pain in the kidney region  
get about four ounces of Epsom salts from  
some drug store here, take a table-  
spoonful in a glass of water before break-  
fast for a few days and your kidneys will  
then set fine. This famous salt is made  
from the acid of grapes and lemon juice,  
combined with lithia, and is harmless to  
flush clogged kidneys and stimulate  
them to normal activity. It also neu-  
tralizes the acids in the urine so it no  
longer irritates, thus ending bladder dis-  
orders.

Dead salts is harmless, inexpensive;  
take a delightful, refreshing lithia-  
water drink which everybody should take  
now and then to keep the kidneys clean,  
thus avoiding serious complications.

A well-known local druggist says he  
sells lots of Dead salts to folks who be-  
lieve in overcoming kidney trouble while  
it is only trouble.

## Sponsor for \$50 Tax on Bachelors Tells Why Man of Thirty Years Is Better Off Married

N.Y. TIMES  
"A MAN HAS A  
RIGHT TO CHOOSE"

WHEN THE CARE-FREE  
SPORT PAYS UP

PAY  
BACHELOR  
TAX HERE

"READER," SAYS  
"IT'S HARD TO MARRY  
A GOOD SENSIBLE GIRL"

"ONE-UP, HUSBAND," SAYS  
"MAN OPTIM GAMES UP LOVE  
AND CLINGS TO BUTT"

A.C.M. SAYS!  
"THERE ARE MEN WHO CAN'T  
AFFORD TO SUPPORT A WIFE"

Brave Author of Proposed New Jersey Law Hears  
From His Constituents and Is Threatened With  
Political Extinction, but He Doesn't Quail,  
and Neither Does He Approve a  
Tax on Old Maids.

By Marguerite Mooers Marshall.

What about a tax on bachelors?

Assemblyman Charles W. Ostrom of Jersey City wants such a tax. He  
wants it so badly that when the New Jersey Legislature opens next Tuesday

he will present a bill asking that the sum of \$50 a year  
be levied on every New Jersey bachelor over thirty who  
is not burdened by the support of a father and mother  
or other dependent relatives.

In other words, it's a case of making the sports  
pay up! Need I add that Assemblyman Ostrom is him-  
self a thoroughly successful family man, with a wife  
and two sturdy youngsters to his credit?

About a week ago he publicly announced his full  
design on the budget of the bachelor, and already he  
has received hundreds of letters. In some of them his  
project is commended, but in many others there are  
protests from the soul against any financial imposition on the poor lone  
unmarried man. Even the husbands have rallied to his defense.

To present the case pro and con for the bachelor tax, four of these  
critical letters are published to-day, together with a further defense of his  
plan by Assemblyman Ostrom.

"For my belief as to the wisdom of a bachelor tax is absolutely un-  
changed," he told me when I talked with him in his office at No. 243 Wash-  
ington Street, Jersey City.

"Every man over thirty is better off married than single. You  
may note that the objections of most of my critics have to do with  
the financial aspect of marriage. I admit that side of the subject  
has its difficulties. But I believe that in the majority of cases  
the young men and women who stay unmarried because they say  
they can't afford it, or who marry and then let money disputes  
mar their happiness, are creating their troubles for themselves.

"The difficulty with our young folks to-day is that they want to live be-  
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"I interrupted. 'What's sauce for  
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Mr. Ostrom smiled, but I'm afraid  
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"On the other hand," he resumed,  
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And both girls and men justify them-  
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the young men and women who stay unmarried because they say  
they can't afford it, or who marry and then let money disputes  
mar their happiness, are creating their troubles for themselves.

"The difficulty with our young folks to-day is that they want to live be-  
yond their income, or at least up to  
its last penny. Naturally, if you go  
by that principle you're not going to  
get ahead. But to imitate the standards  
of living set up by some one else.

"There are the girls who want to  
marry no men save those who, at  
the beginning of their careers, can  
set up homes equal to the ones main-  
tained by the fathers of the girls,  
after years of hard work."

"SAUCE FOR GANDER OUGHT TO  
BE SAUCE FOR GOOSE."

"Then I think you should have an  
old maid's tax, to discourage this  
type of matrimonial watchfulness."

"I interrupted. 'What's sauce for  
the gander is sauce for the goose.'"

Mr. Ostrom smiled, but I'm afraid  
he's too gallant to adopt such a sug-  
gestion.

"On the other hand," he resumed,  
"there are the selfish, idle bachelors  
who sit, butterfly-like, from girl to  
girl, and deliberately shirk the re-  
sponsibility of a wife and family.  
And both girls and men justify them-  
selves by pointing out the marriage  
tax that comes to grief because the hus-  
band doesn't give the wife enough  
money or because she spends too  
much of his income. Unfortunately,  
such instances may be found every-  
where. When the present Secretary  
of War, Mr. Garrison, was Vice-  
Chancellor of New Jersey I remember  
his saying that during a long experi-  
ence he had found 95 per cent. of  
matrimonial troubles to be due to  
differences about money."

"Yet under normal conditions  
the financial prosperity of the mar-  
ried man should exceed that of  
the bachelor. The married man  
has the highest of incentives  
to work and to improve his posi-  
tion. Then, if he has the right  
sort of wife, she helps him to  
save his money. She gives him a  
pleasant home and better food  
than he could obtain for the same  
price elsewhere. And she sees to  
it that no large sum is wasted on  
foolish non-essentials."

"It seems to me that a man and  
woman need not fear marriage on a  
small income if they are resolved to  
be sensible and to trust each other.  
I believe the chivalrous Mr. Ostrom  
interposed with generous warmth,  
"that there is hardly a bride who  
would not do her best to conserve her  
husband's income.